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S E C R E T MUSCAT 000084

SIPDIS

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DS/DSS/CC, DS/OPO/FPD, DS/OSAC, CA/OCS, NEA/EX, NEA/ARPI

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TAGS: AEMR ASEC AMGT PTER CASC KHLS MU EAC

SUBJECT: EMBASSY MUSCAT EAC - 01/16/2005

REF: A. MUSCAT 0082

B. MUSCAT 0070

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission William R. Stewart.  
Reason: 1.4(c).

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Summary  
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11. (SBU) The Ambassador chaired a meeting of the Emergency Action Committee January 16 to review the Embassy's security posture following the local holiday weekend. Members of the EAC noted no substantive changes in the local security environment since the last meeting. Accordingly, the EAC agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and FPCON remain appropriate. End Summary.

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Security Environment  
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12. (SBU) On January 16, the Ambassador chaired a meeting of the Emergency Action Committee ("EAC") to review the Embassy's security posture following the local holiday weekend. The meeting opened with a discussion of the local and regional security situations; the EAC continued to characterize the former as stable, noting no new threat reporting specific to Oman.

13. (SBU) RSO did, however, raise a situation that occurred on the evening of January 15 in which an Embassy employee was followed while driving his privately owned vehicle (reftel A). RSO is in the process of reporting details of the incident, including vehicle description and license plate number, to the Royal Oman Police. EAC Members cited no other security incidents among their staffs or family members over the weekend, and CONS confirmed that there were no security incidents or security-related queries from the private American citizen community.

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Sustained Vigilance  
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14. (SBU) Prior to concluding the meeting, RSO reiterated that, despite the relative calm, members of the EAC must continue reinforcing to both their staffs and family members the need for vigilance regarding all aspects of personal security, including the need to maintain a low profile and to remain unpredictable. RSO further re-emphasized the importance of immediately reporting all suspicious activity or security-related incidents -- especially those involving suspected surveillance -- to Post One.

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EAC Conclusion  
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15. (S/NF) The EAC concluded that there have been no substantive changes in previously reported assessments of the local security environment since the last meeting held on January 12 (reftel B), and that the Embassy's FPCON and already heightened security posture remain appropriate. Nonetheless, the EAC remains acutely aware of the need to monitor both the regional and local security and threat environments, and is prepared to take the necessary countermeasures should changes to either occur. AMB, DCM, RSO, RMAS, P/E, PAO, CONS, MGT (Duty Officer), MSG, DAO, OMC (USDR), and ECA (USCENTAF) participated in the meeting.  
BALTIMORE